IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A system for input of Chinese characters into a machine,
 2 comprising:
- means for input of information, said means for input further comprising means for
- selecting information from the group consisting of a stroke, a component and a character;
- means for storage of data related to the properties of Chinese characters and com-
- 6 pounds, wherein said means for storage comprises data related to component parts of a
- 7 Chinese character, said data selected from the group consisting of (1) the identification
- and order of strokes used to draw said character, said strokes being in accordance with a
- selected classification scheme, (2) the frequency of occurrence of said character as the
- 10 first character of a word with respect to an operator's language, (3) the orthographic
- components of said character in drawing order, and (4) indicators of said character's
- membership within various subsets of Chinese characters;
- means for process of said input information into internal codes for said Chinese
- characters, said process means including a plurality of Chinese character encoding proc-
- esses based on said stored data; and
- means for display providing indication of correspondence between elements of
- said means for input and said display; wherein input of said information presents further
- character selection information is suggested in response to said input.
- 1 2. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said means for input is
- selected from the group consisting of a keyboard and a touchscreen.

- 1 3. (Original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for input is said
- touch screen which is incorporated with said display means, and said touch screen com-
- prises a virtual keyboard comprising a representation of keys, each said key representa-
- 4 tion assigned to selection of a stroke, a component or a character, and said touch screen
- further comprising a special function key selected from the group consisting of a more
- 6 key and a wild card key.
- 1 4. (Original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said means for input is said
- 2 keyboard, said keyboard comprising keys, each said keys assigned to selection of a
- stroke, a component or a character, and said keyboard further comprising a special func-
- 4 tion key selected from the group consisting of a more key and a wild card key.

1 5. Cancelled

- 1 6. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said means for storage com-
- 2 prises data related to component parts of a Chinese word, said data selected from the
- group consisting of (1) the frequency of occurrence of said word with respect to a user's
- 4 language, and (2) indicators of said word's membership within the various subsets of all
- 5 Chinese words.
- 7. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said component is or-
- 2 thographic.

- 1 8. (Original) The system according to claim 7, wherein said component is se-
- lected from the group consisting of a component comprised of fundamental strokes and a
- 3 component comprised of a plurality of subcomponents.
- 9. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the order for the display
- of component candidates is based on the cumulative frequencies of all possible Chinese
- characters and the order for the display of the next drawn candidate is based on the previ-
- 4 ous selection.
- 1 10. (Original) The system according to claim 9, wherein the character frequencies
- are altered as a result of the actual frequency of use of the characters by a specific opera-
- 3 tor.
- 1 11. (Currently Amended) A method for inputting Chinese characters into a machine,
- 2 comprising the steps of:
- 3 (a) inputting a selection for an initial stroke of a Chinese character, wherein
- the initial stroke is traditionally the first stroke drawn when drawing the Chinese charac-
- ter by hand, and reviewing suggesting candidates based upon (1) the identification and
- order of strokes used to draw said character, said strokes being in accordance with a se-
- 7 lected classification scheme, (2) the frequency of occurrence of said character as the first
- 8 character of a word with respect to an operator's language, (3) the orthographic compo-
- 9 nents of said character in drawing order, and (4) indicators of said character's member-
- ship within various subsets of Chinese characters displayed and displaying said candi-

- dates in response to said initial stroke input, wherein said candidates include at least one character or at least one component;
- 13 (b) selecting a character or, if a desired character is not displayed, selecting a

 14 further stroke, wherein the further stroke is traditionally the next stroke drawn when

 15 drawing the Chinese character by hand, or a displayed component; and
- 16 (c) selecting a word associated character or a non-word associated character, 17 such that Chinese text is constructed with said selections.
- 1 12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein selection of said non-2 word associated character automatically appends a word separator.
- 1 13. (Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein said machine com-
- 2 prises a means for input of information, said means for input step of inputting further
- 3 comprising means for selecting information from the group consisting of a stroke, a com-
- 4 ponent and a character; a means for storage of data related to the properties of Chinese
- 5 characters and compounds; a means for process of said input information into internal
- 6 codes for said Chinese characters, said process means including a plurality of Chinese
- 7 character encoding processes based on said stored data; and a means for display provid-
- 8 ing indication of correspondence between elements of said means for input and said dis-
- 9 play.
- 1 14 16 Cancelled.

- 1 17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein said further
- 2 <u>comprising providing a component that</u> is orthographic.
- 1 18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 47 13, wherein said com-
- 2 ponent is selected from the group consisting of a component comprised of fundamental
- strokes and a component comprised of a plurality of subcomponents.
- 1 19. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the order for the dis-
- 2 play of component candidates is based on the cumulative frequencies of all possible Chi-
- nese characters and the order for the display of the next drawn candidate is based on the
- 4 previous selection.
- 1 20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, wherein the character frequen-
- cies are altered as a result of the actual frequency of use of the characters by a specific
- 3 operator.
- 1 21. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the data
- 2 related to Chinese characters further includes indicators of said characters' membership
- within various subsets of Chinese characters.